

(c) by when Government are likely to take decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) The Integrated Energy Policy Report has recommended the setting up of a National Energy Fund (NEF) to promote R&D in the field of Energy. The report has suggested an initial allocation of Rs. 1000 Crore excluding Atomic Energy. The report is currently under the consideration of the Government of India.

Power shortage in the country

3447. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has expressed his serious concern over power shortage of varying degrees across the country and suggested introspection on crisis in power sector, and

(b) if so, the various measures under Government's consideration to tackle the power shortage?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir, while presenting the National Awards to the Power Utilities, for meritorious performance, Hon'ble Prime Minister has expressed concern over power shortages and suggested introspection on crisis in the power sector.

(b) The following steps have been taken/are being taken to improve overall availability of power in the country:

- (i) Rigorous monitoring of capacity addition of the on-going generation projects.
- (ii) Advance planning of generation capacity addition projects for the 11th Five Year Plan.
- (iii) Implementation of Ultra Mega Power Projects of 4000 MW each to achieve benefit of economy of scale.
- (iv) "Partnership in Excellence" Programme starting with adoption of better operation and maintenance (O&M) practices to enable enhancement of Plant Load Factor (PLF) of existing thermal

power stations through tie-up with well performing power utilities as a pre-cursor to renovation and modernization.

- (v) Renovation, modernization and life extension of old and inefficient generation units with interest subsidy on loans by the Power Finance Corporation and Rural Electrification Corporation under "Accelerated Generation and Supply Programme (AG&SP).
- (vi) Tapping of surplus power from captive power plants.
- (vii) Utilization of unutilized capacity of gas based stations of liquied fuel.
- (viii) Strengthening/Augmentation of sub-transmission system in State under Accelerated Power Development Reforms Programme (APDRP) as a major step towards reduction of Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) Losses.
- (ix) Coordinated operation and maintenance of hydro, thermal, nuclear and gas based power stations to optimally utilize the existing generation capacity.
- (x) Optimum utilization of available power by strengthening of inter-state and inter-regional transmission capacity.
- (xi) Promoting demand side management, energy efficiency and energy conservation measures.
- (xii) Rigorous monitoring of production, transportation and supply of coal by an Inter-Ministerial Group comprising representatives of Ministry of Coal, Ministry of Power, Ministry of Railways, Central Electricity Authority and Coal India Limited on weekly/ fortnightly basis to review and resolve the constraints.
- (xiii) Procurement of hydro-electric power from Bhutan.

Signing of MoU for setting up of Power Plants

3448. SHRI K.P. K. KUMARAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is in receipt of any request from the State Government of Tamil Nadu under MoU rules on signing of MoUs by the